



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR INFORMATION:

Jenny Wolf  
(307) 766-2829

**WYOMING PBS DOCUMENTARY  
FEATURES WYOMING DEMENTIA TOGETHER GROUP**

(Laramie, WY) – The role of caregivers for persons living with dementia is featured on a current edition of the PBS Special, “A State of Mind: The Caregivers” broadcast on Wyoming Public Broadcasting stations. The episode is part of the PBS documentary series exploring the mental health crisis in Wyoming and it features many experts, including several members of the Wyoming Center on Aging’s Wyoming Dementia Together Caregiver Network.

The journey of Kent Shurtleff, Riverton, WY, a participant in the WDT program and a longtime caregiver for his wife, Minnie, is featured prominently. “It is the toughest job I’ve ever had in my life,” he said during the broadcast. “We’re rural people. We don’t look for help; we don’t ask for it. We just try to fix it ourselves.”

The expertise of two members of the Wyoming Dementia Together team is also featured. Carol Taylor, LCSW, Jackson, WY, summed up the caregiver role when she said, “The partner becomes the primary thinker, doer, planner,” she said. “The stress is unrelenting.” Sabine Schenck, MS, WDT Facilitator, Laramie, WY, agreed the responsibility can be extremely challenging. “It can lead to isolation and loneliness,” she noted.

Two public viewings of this program are planned. The first will be held in Cheyenne on Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup> at the Surbrugg/Prentice Auditorium (SPA), Laramie County Community College, 1400 E College Drive, from 5:00pm – 6:30pm. The second will be in Riverton on Monday, July 22 at the Little Theater, Central Wyoming College, 2660 Peck Avenue, from 5:00pm – 6:30pm. A live stream of the event will also be made available for those unable to attend in person.

[View the PBS Program "A State of Mind: The Caregivers"](#)

WDT operates under the direction of the University of Wyoming Center on Aging to offer support services to those who are caring for loved ones living with dementia. WDT meets via Zoom every other Wednesday at 10:30am Mountain Time. Programs feature a guest speaker and allow time for interaction from those who attend online. The WDT support staff includes dementia care professionals, licensed clinical social workers, physical and occupational therapists, and caregivers.

Information regarding registration for these online Zoom meetings and the other free services offered by Wyoming Dementia Together, please contact the Wyoming Center on Aging at 307-766-2829 or [wyoa@uwyo.edu](mailto:wyoa@uwyo.edu).